Environmental Committee – University-wide Standing Committee

MEETING MINUTES
March 28, 2012

Meeting began at 3:05 p.m. in CSU 285.

Present: Ryan Bechel, David Cowan (alternate for Ron Fields, Facilities Management), Beth Holcomb, Erica Johnson, Moriah Miles (MSSA VP), Medea Myhra, Kim Rademaker, Lou Schwartzkopf, Nachelle Swift, Gary Urban, Barry Wilkins  Excused:  Monika Antonelli, Michael Cain

Previous Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes of February 29 were approved with the following change:  The fourth item under “Topics of Discussion” – delete the statement “Dr. Schwartzkopf will contact a former committee member to present information to the group.”

Discussion:

• Green Transportation Fee:  Dave Cowan shared copies of his February memo to MSSA and SAC and his March memo to the Mankato Mass Transit Superintendent.  MSSA vice president, Moriah Miles, addressed the committee saying that MSSA spoke with the city council and got their “okay” to move ahead with the “U-Pass” and expanded bus routes proposal.  Voting on the initiative will take place on the student election day of April 10.  The 75-cent mandatory Green Transportation Fee would be paid by students only.  Bus ridership would increase with riders having to show just their MAV card ID instead of paying $45 for a semester bus pass or $16 for a 30-day pass.  Fewer vehicles on campus would result.  The Green Transportation Fee would also be used to expand bike rack capacity on campus now limited to 1,000 bikes.  The proposal will now go to MSU president Davenport to be taken to Meet & Confer for feedback.  The Environmental Committee, without objection, endorsed the Green Transportation Fee as an environmentally friendly initiative designed to lower the carbon footprint of the campus, increase bike use, and reduce the need to build more parking lots.

Moriah mentioned that they were able to get a mapped-out grid of Mankato which shows concentrated MSU student populations.  Committee members voted on seeing if we can have a similar map done for MSU staff.  Motion carried.  Moriah will check to see if we can have this done.

• Better Together – Get Together:  Ryan and Erica will be attending and representing MSU at the event at Good Counsel this Saturday.

Presentation
Greg Ackerson, from the McKinistry company, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, presented to the committee on ACUPCC (American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment) and how McKinistry works with institutions to design, build and operate facility systems.

Meeting concluded at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting:  April 25, 2012, CSU 285, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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